

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 08069 252313Z

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DLOS-04 IO-10 L-03 FEA-01

ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /111 W

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R 252113Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 394

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PLOS CO EC

SUBJ: COLOMBIAN-ECUADOR MARITIME PACT: IMPORTANCE FOR COLOMBIA

1. BOGOTA PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO COLOMBIA-ECUADOR MARITIME ACCORD SIGNED IN QUITO AUGUST 23. FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, COLOMBIA HAS GAINED IN THREE WAYS FROM THE AGREEMENT WITH ECUADOR. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE AGREEMENT DELIMITING THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES OUT TO 200 MILES HAS REMOVED A POSSIBLE IRRITANT OF THE KIND MARRING RELATIONS BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA (OVER THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE GULF OF VENEZUELA).

2. SECONDLY, PRESIDENT LOPEZ, AS HE DID IN PANAMA LAST MARCH, DEMONSTRATED COLOMBIA'S PROMOTION OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY. ARTICLE THREE OF THE ACCORD IN EFFECT PROVIDES COLOMBIAN

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 08069 252313Z

RECOGNITION OF ECUADOR'S 200 MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS CLAIM,

SOMETHING COLOMBIA COULD DO NOTHING ABOUT ANYWAY.

3. FINALLY, LOPEZ VIEWS THE AGREEMENT AS A REAL BREAKTHROUGH IN SHOWING HOW TWO COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERING POSITIONS ON A SENSITIVE ISSUE CAN REACH AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT RESORT TO CONFRONTATION OR THIRD PARTY INTERVENTION. HE HOPES TO USE THIS MODEL TO NEGOTIATE TERRITORIAL WATERS DELIMITATIONS WITH 16 OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE CARIBBEAN. RELATED TO THIS, AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, COLOMBIA NEGOTIATED AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT CHANGING ITS OWN LOS POSITION OR PREJUDICING ITS ROLE IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS. THE ACCORD, WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COLOMBIAN LEGISLATURE FOR RATIFICATION, ALSO ENTAILS ECUADOR'S RESPECTING WHATEVER PATH COLOMBIA CHOOSES TO TAKE IN THE FUTURE RE THE 200 MILE BAND OF WATERS BORDERING THE COUNTRY. FINALLY, THE MARITIME ACCORD STANDS AS A REMINDER TO COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN NEXT YEAR'S LOS CONFERENCE THAT COLOMBIA IS PREPARED TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION WITH RESPECT TO ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS SHOULD THAT CONFERENCE NOT BE SUCCESSFUL.
VAKY

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